confide ce that Port Arthur will be able to stand a long siege.

The Japanese will thus be placed in a dilemma. If they advance Port Arthur will be prepared to menace their rear. If they do not advance Admiral Alexieff will collect his forces at Harbin and wait until spring, when he will advance in such overpowering strength that no resistance will be possible. The correspondent adds that this news has been received in Russian military circles with consternation and has caused a more painful sensation than the calamities that have befallen the Russian fleet, as it, more clearly than any event that has occurred, reveals the formidable nature of the enemy.

The feeling of alarm and despondency in Moscow and St. Petersburg is becoming widespread. As the police have reason to believe that revolutionists are taking part in the so-called patriotic demonstrations with the intention of establishing the custom of collecting large mobs before the palace, these gatherings are now being discouraged.

ALEXIEFF'S EXCUSE FOR DEFEAT Enemy's Fleet "Superior to Ours"-Thinks Japanese Ships Were Damaged.

Special Cable Desputch to THE SUN. spatch sent to-day by Admiral Alexieff, giving the details of the action that took place on Feb. 8 and 9, states that the result of the battle is still difficult to ascertain. He adds:

"That several of the enemy's ships were damaged is to be assumed from the observations of our officers, which explains why they did not continue to fight, although their strength was superior to ours."

Admiral Alexieff does not admit any losses of ships or men beyond those mentioned in his original despatch. The bulk of this report is devoted to the engagement on Feb. 9, the Japanese torpedo attack having occurred on the previous night. It says that sixteen Japanese vessels appeared at 10 o'clock in the morning off Port Arthur, and adds:

"Their appearance was observed by the coast signal stations and also by the ships of our squadron, which lay in the outer roadstead fully prepared for battle. It consisted of five battleships, five first and second class cruisers, and fifteen torpedo boats, the whole commanded by Vice-Admiral Stark and Rear Admiral Ukhtomski. The coast batteries immediately prepared to receive the enemy.

"Our squadron weighed anchor in order of battle and upon the first shot being fired by the enemy the fleet and batteries replied simultaneously with a lively cannonade. The most exposed to the enemies' fire were the ships of the squadron and batteries No. 15 on Electric Cliff and No. 13 on Golden Hill. The other coast batteries chiefly Nos. 17 and 18 were also under fire.

The report then gives a list of the warships, with their commanders, which participated in the battle in the front line; namely, the battleships Petropavlovsk, flying Vice-Admiral Stark's flag; the Sevastopol, Poltava, Peresviet, flying Rear Admiral Ukhtomski's flag, and Pobieda; the first class cruisers Bayan, Diana and Askold, and the second class cruisers Boy arin and Novik. The Admiral adds:

"The Tsarevitch, Capt. Grigorovitch: Retvizan, Capt Sensnovitch, and Pallada, Capt. Kossovitch, which lay at anchor. having been damaged in the torpedo attack of the night before, likewise took part in the fight, as also did the transport An gara, Capt. Stuchhomlin. There were also engaged torpedo boats of the first and second divisions under Commanders Matussevitch and Guenter."

Then follow the names of fifteen torpedo boats and their commanders, after which the despatch says:

"Throughout the fight the torpedo division lay to the right of the squadron, at a distance of from ten to fifteen kabeltari to attack the enemy. The land batteries were under the general direction of Major-Gen. Byeloff, commander of the Kwantung garrison artillery.

"According to the reports of the commanders of the ships, the men fought exceedingly well, on which account I have, in virtue of imperial authorization, conferred the following crosses of the Order of St. George:

*Six fourth class crosses for each company aboard the first and second class warships having crews of over 200 men; four crosses for each company of all the other ships of the second class; one cross for each torpedo boat and one for the signal station on Golden Hill, which was operated under heavy fire from the enemy; four St. George crosses for Battery 15; three for Battery 13, and one cross for Gunner Nikifor Alochin personally, he having, though severely wounded, returned to his battery after having had his wounds dressed.

"Our losses in the squadron were five officers wounded. Fourteen men were killed and sixty-nine wounded, while of the fortress garrison one man was killed, one severely wounded and five slightly wounded."

The Admiral continues: "The naval and military forces are animated by the most heartfelt wish to meet the insolent foe breast to breast, in order to fulfil their duty in sight of their adored ruler and to fight for the honor and glory of their beloved fatherland."

ASKS RUSSIANS TO BE PATIENT. Official Proclamation Excusing the Government's Unreadiness for War.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.-An official proclamation has been issued, intended to reassure the Russian people. It begins with a reference to the "treacherous attack which shook Russia with profound indignation eight days ago" and assures the people that Japan will receive the chastisement she

It gives warning that much time will be necessary in order to strike blows worthy of Russia's might. Land operations must not be expected for some time, nor early news. Useless shedding of blood is unworthy of Russia's greatness and power. The proclamation promises that all true news will be given to the nation imme-

distance of the territory, and the Czar's desire to maintain peace, says the procla-mation, were the causes of Russia's in-ability to make earlier preparations for

PILLAGING AT PORT ARTHUR.

RUSSIANS AND CHINESE THERE COMMITTING OUTRAGES.

Shopkeepers Arm for Defence-Japanese Refugees Tell of Ill-Treatment-Wenchow's Passengers Kept Diary of Their Complaints-Without Food or Water. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 18 .- Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, confirms the reports of disorder at Port Arthur. Manchurian bandits and Russian soldiers are pillaging everywhere, and shopkeepers have armed to protect themselves. Japanese refugees, who have arrived on the British steamship Wenchow at Chefoo,

say that they were frequently left without food by the Russians, and that the Wenchow's signals for water were disregarded. The Japanese on their way from Harbin to Port Arthur were pillaged and left penni-

Consul-General Uchida received yesterday from the Japanese Legation in Washington a copy of an official despatch sent from Tokio, which stated that the Japanese refugees from Port Arthur had been subjected to ill treatment by the Russians. The despatch was made up principally in the form of a diary, which the refugees had prepared, describing their treatment These refugees arrived at Chefoo on the British steamer Wenchow on Feb. 15. This was the account they gave:

"Feb. 8-The Japanese were forbidden to embark on the British steamer Ras Bera. All the Japanese were prohibited from leaving the harbor.

"Feb. 9-Eight Russian soldiers were placed on guard over the Japanese on board the Wenchow. None of the Japanese was allowed to land. The Wenchow was detained, and some two hundred Japanese on board about to starve.

Feb. 10-After appeals to Viceroy Alexieff ten bags of rice and some biscuits were sent to the ship in the evening. "Feb. 11-No heed was taken by the

Russians of our repeated signals, 'No drinking water.' "Feb. 13-Renewed appeals made to the Russians to give some food at least to

the infants and ill women "One hundred and three Japanese boarded the Wenchow from Harbin. While on their way they were robbed of all their baggage and rendered penniless. There are now 300 Japanese on the Wenchow and their distressed condition is beyond description. "Feb. 14, at 5 P. M.-The Wenchow was

allowed to sail. "Feb. 15 - Arrived at Chefoo in the

morning. It was also stated in the despatch that there is general disorder at Port Arthur and that there is pillaging by Manchurian bandits and Russian soldiers. The shopkeepers, it was added, are arming to pro-

tect shemselves from being plundered. JAPAN'S WAR LOAN TAKEN.

Public's Subscriptions Not Needed for the \$63,000,000 Fund.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN PARIS, Feb. 18 .- A despatch to the Petit Parisien from Tokio says that 126,000,000 ven (\$63,000,000) has been subscribed by banks, private corporations and dignitaries for the Japanese domestic war loan of 100,000,000 yen. This does not include individual subscriptions, which are numer-

The Foreign Office has received a despatch from St. Petersburg announcing that Gen. Kouropatkin has been appointed to the supreme military command in the

TOKIO, Feb. 18.-It is rumored that the Emperor intends to hand over the palace reasures to the Bank of Japan to swell the war fund.

VLADIVOSTOK FLEET'S WORK. Russian Commander Reports Sinking of Japanese Steamer-Severe Storms.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 18.-Vicerov Alex ieff has communicated to the Czar the contents of a telegram from Commodore Reitzenstein, commander of the Russian Vladivostok fleet, dated Feb. 12. He reports that the Japanese steamship Nakenoura was destroyed and her crew of forty-one men taken aboard the Russian ships. A small Japanese coaster was also approached (a Russian sea measure), awaiting orders by the squadron, but a violent squall made her capture impossible and therefore she was not sunk.

The squadron made for Chestakoff, fleeing before a tempest to gain the Corean coast. The vessels accomplished only 5 knots an hour, owing to the storm. The temperature was 9 degrees below the

freezing point, and the cruisers and guns were coated with ice. Two violent gales were encountered in three days

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has received a telegram, dated Tuesday, from the commander of the French cruiser Pascal that he is about to leave Chemulpho, in order to land at Shanghai Minister Pavloff and sixty-two other Russian residents of Corea, and also the commanding officers. sixteen officers and 268 men of the destroyed Russian ships Variag and Korietz

M. DE WITTE TO RETURN. Expected to Resume His Post as Russian

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN ST. PETFESBURG, Feb. 18.-M. de Pleske the Minister of Finance, has been removed from his post. M. de Witte, now President of the Committee of Ministers, will probably return to the Finance Ministry

M. de Witte gave up the office of Finance Minister last August, when he was appointed President of the Committee of Ministers by the Czar. Although this is an office of great honor and its incumbent is virtually Premier, the change was hardly a promotion for M. de Witte. He succeeded, a promotion for M. de Witte. He succeeded, however, in having M. de Pleske, who was Director of the Imperial State Fank and a loyal subordinate of his, appointed Finance Minister, so as to forestall any intrigue in favor of some follower of M. Plehve, the Minister of the Interior.

De Witte is the foremost Liberal of Russia He is understood to advocate constitutional reforms for the Empire, and it is known that last summer, just after the Kishineff massacres and before he ceased to be Minister of Finance, he endeavored to bring about remedial legislative measures in behalf of the Jews. He is a level headed and progressive statesman, and is said to opposed the policy which hastened

To Send Consular Agent to Wiju.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 .-- As soon as the State Department receives official notification of the opening of Wiju, Corea, to foreign trade, the President will select a commercial agent or Consul, probably the former, for duty at that place. Wiju is opposite Antung, Manchuria, both on the Yalu River, and J. W. Davidson, who has been sent to Antung as Consul, may serve at Wiju until he secures recognition at that place either from the Russian or the

To Cure a Cold in One Day Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Drug-gists refund the money if it falls to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.—Ads.

BAYAN OR BOYARIN SUNK? One or the Other Cruiser Hit in the Las Japanese Attack.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN LONDON, Feb. 19.-Although Tokio be lieves that the Russian cruiser Boyarin was torpedoed in the attack on Feb. 14, some of the correspondents assert that it was the Bayan, saying that the Boyarin was injured or sunk, as previously reported, by an explosion of a submarine mine on Feb. 11.

If the Bayan was the victim it will be serious loss to the Russians, she being the fastest and strongest cruiser left at Port Arthur. She was a new vessel of 7,800 tons, with a speed of 21 knots. She was heavily armored.

The Nagasaki correspondent of the Telegraph telegraphs that he conversed with a friend who left Port Arthur after Feb. 14 but transmits nothing of the attack made that night. He confirms the old story of the night attack on Feb. 8. He says that the officers of the squadron were ashore attending a party given by the Admiral's

Fully half of them were unfit for duty when they returned to their ships and fell into disgrace. Admiral Stark has been superseded. The Japanese shell fire was very destructive. Forty sailors were buried, most of whom had been terribly lacerated by shells.

Quite a number of ships were marked

by shells, but the forts were hardly damaged. The Retvizan lies broadside to the harbor's mouth and is being utilized as a battery. No attempt is being made to repair her. The Russians now confess that their navy

s no match for the Japanese, but the fighting on land will be different. Trains have brought thousands of Cossack reenforcements, who are eager for the fray and confident of success. The Daily Mail figures that ten Russian

warships have been crippled at Port Arthur, leaving four battleships and no cruisers A despatch to the Times from Tokio says

it is reported that a Russian shell broke against Japanese armor on Feb. 9. A Japanese shell, with Shimose powder, was efficient and destructive.

The anxiety felt for the Japanese torpedo boat destroyers which were scattered by the storm while making for Port Arthur on Feb. 13 has been removed. They have all returned safely to their base.

THREAT FROM CHINA.

Belligerents Must Not Descerate Tombs of the Dynasty's Ancestors. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN

LONDON, Feb. 19.-A communication of the utmost importance, which may add fresh complications to the Far Eastern situation, has, it is said, been handed to the various Governments by the Chinese Ministers in Washington and the European capitals. The Chinese Government has addressed both Russia and Japan, reiterating its intention to maintain strict neutrality, but declaring that the sanctity of the tombs of the ancestors of the Chinese dynasty at Mukden and elsewhere must be respected by the beiligerents.

China's communication states that she has troops at Mukden and other points in Manchuria, and in case either Russia or Japan desecrates the tombs or in other ways does injury to China orders have been given to the troops to vindicate the honor of China and meet force wh force.

JAPAN HAS LOST NO SHIPS.

Tokio Also Denies Reported Repulse Landing Party at Pigeon Bay. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 18 .- Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, has received an official denial from Tokio that the Japanese lately attempted to make a landing in the neighborhood of Pigeon Bay, Manchuria, Thus it is impossible that a Japanese scouting party was destroyed or captured by Cossacks near Kinchau, as has been alleged in newspaper despatches.

The despatch to the Minister adds that no Japanese vessels have thus far been destroyed, the fighting part of the fleet being practically unimpaired

BRITISH STEAMER FIRED ON. Russians Held Up the Hsiping at Port Arthur and Dainy.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. SHANGHAL, Feb. 18.—The British steamer Hsiping from Chingwantao reports that she was fired upon by the Russian forts while taking shelter in the outer roads of Port Arthur, and was then ordered to Dalny and detained there four days, in spite of constant protests.

RUSSIA'S REPLY TO HAY'S NOTE. Ambassader McCormick Told That It Will Be Favorable

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.-All doubt as to the success of Secretary Hay's proposa that Russia and Japan respect the neutrality of China and limit the sphere o their military operations during the war was removed to-day through a telegram to Mr. Hay from Mr. McCormick, the American Ambassador at St. Petersburg, saying that the Russian Government had given him to understand that its response o the proposal would be favorable

Owing to the custom of presenting all important international questions to the Czar for his views and sanction before communicating with the Governments con-cerned, the formal Russian response has been delayed, but it is expected that it will

SUICIDE BY CHLOROFORM. H. R. Rogers Kills Himself at the Hom

of Dr. W. R. Richards. Henry R. Rogers, an agent for the New

York Gas Appliance Company, was found dead vesterday in a furnished room which he rented in the home of Dr. William R Richards, at 151 East Twenty-first street Dr. Richards is connected with the Health Department. Rogers apparently com-mitted suicide some time on Tuesday night

by inhaling chloroform.

According to Dr. Richards, Rogers, who was 60 years old, had been a lodger of his for about six weeks. He was hard up, the doctor said. the doctor said.

On Wednesday morning, when the maid went to make up his room, she saw him in bed apparently asleep and did not try to arouse him. It was not until yesterday arouse him. It was not until yesterday that the family became suspicious enough

to investigate.
Rogers had soaked three handkerchiefs. buried his head in them and then pulled the bedclothes up over his face. He had been dead over twenty-four hours. Noth-ing was known of his family by the Richards.

MAYOR JOSHES PUBLISHERS.

HE'S ONE HIMSELF BY VIRTUE OF THE "CITY RECORD",

Which Never Advertises Itself, Even in Red Ink-Chinese Minister Tells What the "Open Door" Means to Us-Tale of the Man Who Knew George Eliot.

Mayor McClellan and Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng, Chinese Minister to the United States, shared the honors and the applause last night at the dinner at the Waldorf, with which the members of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association wound up their three days convention. According to the printed announcement on the souvenir card the Mayor's toast was

"Sitting on the Lid." And after the Mayor's name was the couplet: The pot boils and bubbles, But the lid holds tightly down.

But the Mayor ignored the printed announcement and never mentioned the lid. Instead, he struck the happy notion of considering himself as the publisher of the City Record and addressing his hosts as "fellow publishers."

"I am," he began, "the publisher of the best edited and most carefully written newspaper in the United States. It is of high moral standard. It may be taken into the home circle and it will shatter no fireside idols. It has no axes to grind and no candidate to boom, although it prints the names of those statesmen who die, of the very few who resign and of the fewer still who are removed.

"It does not advertise itself, not even in red ink. But I will say here that it is on sale at the Mayor's office at three cents Since I assumed the publication of this

newspaper I have learned many things. I am told that the soul of the American press is in the publication office, and that its heart is locked in the safe in the counting Its heart is locked in the safe in the counting room. So in talking to you publishers I am talking to the soul of the press.

"I have been told that the press is omniscient. I always supposed that, for I am an old newspaper man myself.

"They say it is omnipotent. Well, there was an election in this town not very many mouths are But every rule must be

was an election in this town not very many months ago. But every rule must be proved by its exception. During that campaign I was reminded of what Gladstone said to John Morley—'I feel that I must be a rascal, because it seems to be the view of the British press that am one.

"The press is always omnipotent when it is fortunate enough to learn which way the tide is flowing and then swim with it. But the paper that is always with the tide is called yellow. The paper that is al-ways against it is called a common scold. The wise paper knows where to stay to catch the advantage of either ebb or flow, and then claims the exclusive credit for

starting the movement.
"We publishers are subject to nervou hysterics and overdo praise as well as abuse. When I refer to overdone praise I am not speaking from personal experience. Nothing can be more harmful to a political party than undiscriminating and unlim-ited praise from the press. That breeds party than undiscriminating and unlimited praise from the press. That breeds laxity among the leaders. On the other hand, unlimited abuse makes martyrs and popular heroes of the victims.

"When the papers carry abuse too far the spirit of fair play of the American people comes in and calls a halt. The press always

was powerful and always will be, when runs to neither extreme but recognize the good points of political opponents and criticises the faults of friends.

"When I assumed the publication of the When I assumed the publication of the City Record I asked my fellow publishers in this city to help me make it the organ of a clean and honest and businesslike

dministration. It is right that I should here acknowledge that with one or two exceptions the publishers of this city have given me the benefit of the fairest of fair play."

When he was introduced, the Mayor had been received with cheers, but that demonstration wasn t a marker to the enthusiasm after his speech. There were shouts of "McClellan! McClellan!" and the

Mayor was made an honorary member of the association on the spot. When Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng was A few lots at the beginning of the sale introduced to talk about "The Gorgeous" went at insignificant prices, but from then East" the diners found their voices again and cheered and cheered for the Minister. He prophesied a great future for the trade between the United States and his country

He said in part: He said in part:

Ever since the discovery of the oc ean routes
to the East, the efforts of the West have been
directed toward shortening these routes.

With this end in view, the Suez Canal was
dug. The demands of commerce and civilization have long rendered an interoceanic
canal across the American isthmus a positive
necessity. The logic of events is such that
the building of such a canal may now be
looked upon as one of the undertakings sure
to be carried out in the near future.

One of the most obvious results of cutting
a canal across the American isthmus is to bring

One of the most obvious results of cutting a canal across the American isthmus is to bring the East and the West, especially America, into closer relations. The cities on the Gulf coast and the Atlantic seaboard will find themselves thousands of miles neurer than they are now to Shanghai and Yokohama. Trade and commerce cannot but feel the effect of this shortening of distance. Upon the opening of China as a market for American goods will depend, in a great measure, the future commercial expansion of the United States.

States.

It must be remembered that all the nations of Furope are active competitors of the United States.

It must be remembered that all the nations of Furope are active competitors of the United States in almost all those lines of goods which American manufacturers have to offer. At the same time, the tariff walls which each country has erected for the protection of home industries are growing higher and higher every day. Trade, like everything else, follows the line of the least resistance of American trade lies evidently in the direction of China.

It is not necessary for me to go into details regarding the Chinese market for American goods. Suffice it to say that the trade in wheat flour and cotton goods alone is susceptible of indefinite increase. The demand for American wheat flour in China first attracted attention shortly after the Boxer rouble. Now China imports several million dollars worth of it every year.

As to cotton goods, it may interest you to know that China takes the greater half of all the cotton goods exported from the United States. I have before me the figures compiled by the United States Government Bureau of Statistics for the year 1902. I find that the total value of cotton goods exported from the United States to all countries during that year was \$23, 108, 302, and of this amount China took \$16,494,248—over half of the total. Under such circumstances, it is not strange that year circumstances, it is not strange that disturbances in China should injuriously

China took \$16,494,248—over half of the total. Under such circumstances, it is not strange that disturbances in China should injuriously affect a large section of the country. It is true that nearly all of the American cotton goods go to northern China and Manchuria. But, so far as I can see, there is no reason why the market is not just as good in southern China. The only thing is that a firm foothold has been gained in northern China while the field is entirely neglected in southern China.

China.

It will be seen that the industrial development of certain parts of the United States is vitally affected by the progress of events in China. Thus, the "open door" policy so strenuously championed by Secretary Hay under the administrations of President McKinley and President Roosevelt is dictated, not only by a benevolent desire to help China, but also by an enlightened self-interest.

Charles H. Taylor, Jr., wo was toast-master, introduced his father of the Boston Globe, to respond to the toast, "What Shall We Do With Our Sons?"

"While hunting for my father in this hotel to-night," said the toastmaster, "I found him downstairs in a place where you wouldn't want to find your sons."

Col. Taylor thanked the growd for its Col. Taylor thanked the crowd for its warm reception of "his son's father." He advised the newspaper men to take their one into business with them. Creswell Maclaughlin, who publishes The Schoolmaster at Cornwall-on-Hudson, told a story which he'll never print in his own

A pompous person applied to the elder Bennett for a job as editorial writer. "What are your qualifications?" asked the "I know all the literary men of England," replied the a pplicant. "H'm, h'm," said Bennett, "you must know

"I was a reporter with Dickens."
"And Thackeray?"
"I helped Thackeray with his Book of "And Tennyson?"

The women in the balconies tried to look shocked, but after just an instant's hesitation joined the men on the floor in the laughter and applauding.

President Littleton of Brooklyn was down to make the last speech. He was about thirty minutes last speech.

about thirty minutes late.

George H. Daniels said that he would "sit in" for a few minutes to keep the talk game going till Littleton got there. He told all the jokes he dared to, and still there was a gap to fill, and E. B. Stahlman of Nash-ville Tenn got up to fill.

ville, Tenn., got up to fill it.

Mr. Stahlman was paying glowing tributes to the ladies when Mr. Littleton arrived and made a speech to the effect that the star of empire is still on the western tack. SONS OF DELAWARE DINE. Hunn Couldn't Be There-William

Ransom Made President. The Delaware Society of New York held ts fourteenth annual dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria last night. About 200 members were present. William Ransom was elected president and presided as toastmaster. Gov. John Hunn, who had been expected to respond to "Our Native State," was to attend. Lee Cannon spoke in

is place. Tenement House Commissioner Thomas C. T. Crain responded to "The City of New York," and Charles H. Treat to "Our Coun-try," William C. Kerbin responded to "Delaware and the Eastern Shore," and the Rev. J. Nevett Steele to "State Societies in New York."

FIRST WIFE OBJECTED. New Bride of a Legislator Didn't Know He Had Been Married Before.

St. Louis, Feb. 18.-Because he did no ake his bride into his confidence, W. Y Locker of Waynesville, Mo., a member of the State Legislature, finds himself in a heap of trouble. On Jan. 10 Locker married Miss Lucy Laduce, daughter of a wealthy manufacturer of Duluth, Minn. coming here after his bridal tour on his way home. He failed to tell his bride that he had been married previously, having secured a divorce in Clayton, St. Louis

county. The first Mrs. Locker evidently kep track of the movements of her former husband, for upon their arrival in this city the bridegroom was served with a summons in a divorce case filed by his former wife and charging him with bigamy She denies the legality of his Clayton divorce, asserting that he was not a residen of St. Louis county when the summons was served. The second Mrs. Locker ther learned for the first time that her husband had been married before.

FIRE DRIVES TEACHERS OUT. An Insignificant Blaze Interrupts a Con ference at School 58.

Principal William F. O'Callahan and hi wenty-six teachers were holding a conference after school hours just before 4 o'clock resterday afternoon on the fourth floor of Public School 58, at 317 West Fifty-second street, when the janitor's helper rushed into the room.

"There's a fire downstairs," he said 'It doesn't amount to much and there's no danger, but I thought you might as well know about it." Principal O'Callahan and his teachers

went downstairs in good order, although one or two of the women were slightly nervous. While Mr. O'Callahan was summoning the firemen the janitor, Alexander McLean, and his helper put out the blaze, which

on the third floor. SCHREYER SOLD FOR \$5,000. \$20,800 Netted at a First Evening's Sale

was in some paper on a shelf in a coat room

of Modern Paintings. Mesers. Fishel, Adler & Schwartz sold eighty-one modern paintings and watercolors by European and American artists at the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries last evening, under the direction of James P. Silo. went at insignificant prices, but from then on the bidding was lively, and at the end

on the bidding was lively, and at the end Schreyer's painting "At the Trough" was sold to Louis Raiston for \$5,000, the top price of the evening.

The bidding on this picture started at \$2,000 and went by leaps to \$4,900, when Mr. Raiston's additional \$100 gave him the canvas. The same purchaser paid \$600 for "Episode of the Siege of Paris," by P. Grolleron, and \$1,000 for "Departure for Fantasia," by Ad. Schreyer.

Some of the other pictures and their

purchasers were: "The Enemy Arrives" (J. G. Sigriste), to E.T. Wilcot, \$800; "At the Market" (Louis Schryner), to H. Meyer at \$400; "Card Players" (A. A. Lesrel), to Henry Barcalay at \$730; "Delia" (Albert Lynch), to T. Buckley at \$800; "Meeting of Officers" (E. P. Berne-Bellecour), to T. Satterlee at \$700; "Guideca, Venice" (M. Bompard), to Mrs. T. Hoffman at \$350; "Taking Leave of Betrothed" (Jules Worms), to M. Levy at \$300.

Charles Preston paid \$950, the highes price for a pastel, for Fritz Thaulow's "Port de Christiania." Eugene Van Naltsbought Rondel's "Meditation" for \$410. Andrew Freedman made several purchase among them "Port Marie," by L. Tim-mermans, at \$160, and "Fortune Teller," by Garrido, Paris, at \$225. Five paintings were withdrawn and will be offered to-night, when the sale will

continue. The evening's sale netted \$20,800.

THE GIRL HAD TO FLEE. Minister Denounces the Man Who Dis

graced Her. Who Also Leaves Town. MORGANTOWN, W. Va., Feb. 18 .- A minister of this place made a stir on last Sunday when he denounced society from the pulpit for receiving a young man, while the girl he had disgraced had to flee from the town The girl was a student at the West Virginia University and the man was a hotel clerk

who had been a fellow student. On Sunday, a week ago, the young woman, who boarded at Woman's Hall, got permission to attend an evening dinner. Wine was a feature and she soon was so hopelessly overcome that it is now thought her wine was drugged. The clerk got drunk also. The affair might have remained a secret but for the fact that the clerk was discovered walking about the hotel office with some of the young girl's clothes on his arm.

A physician was called and when the young woman was revived sufficiently to go home she told the dean of the Woman's Hall her story and then hurriedly packing her trunk left on the first train the next morning The affair was only whispered of until the minister exposed it in his pulpit. Since then the clerk has gone to his home, in the eastern part of the State.

The girl belongs to a good family living in the Ohio Valley. GLEASON'S FIREMEN WIN. Seventeen Get Judgments of \$61,021

Against City for Back Pay. Judge Garretson in the Supreme Court in Long Island City yesterday gave judge ment against the city of New York in seven-

ment against the city of New York in seventeen suits brought by firemen and their executors against the city of New York. There are forty-six similar suits. The total of the seventeen judgments rendered amounts to \$61,021.6).

The plaintiffs were appointed to the Long Island City Fire Department by the late Mayor Gleason of Long Island City. They were displaced after consolidation and won suits for reinstatement. They and won suits for reinstatement. They then brought actions to recover back salary and won suits for reinstatement

\$70,000 Fire in Rondout.

RONDOUT, N. Y., Feb. 18.-Fire this morn ing did \$70,000 damage to A. J. Omerod's hotel, Phil Schuster's eigar factory, the Rondout Club, Guilford Hasbrouck's shoe store, A. Terpenning's confectionery, and Mrs. R. Medicus's dry goods store, in the Hasbrouck block on East Strand. DODGE IS BACK IN HOUSTON.

DETECTIVE HERLIHY THERE AND IN A HOSPITAL.

dysteriously Injured in Some Way and His Mind Affected—Large Sums of Money Spent in Vain to Get Dodge Into Mexico-Jerome Wants Mrs. Morse Here

HOUSTON, Tex., Feb. 18.-Charles E. Dodge, Edward Bramley of Atlanta and Attorney A. H. Kaffenburgh of New York came in this evening from Corpus Christi, Dodge being in charge of a United States officer. Just ten days ago the three managed to elude detectives and slip out of Houston to Galveston, where within ar hour's time they chartered a vessel at a cost of \$1,000 and set sail for Brownsville with the hope of getting into Mexico.

The captain of the vessel refused an offer of first \$1,000, then \$2,000, and finally \$5,000, to land the party on Mexican soil. He did not have sailing papers which would permit this. Efforts were made to get across the border, but were thwarted by the detectives, who at first baffled, managed to get the trail and then to gain the assistance of Gov. Lanham and the State Ran-The extradition of Dodge is now to be

fought here to the end. Desperate means have been employed so far, and more des perate ones are to be used, if necessary, to prevent his return, according to one of his guards. An officer who had guarded Dodge received \$3,000 just before Dodge disap peared. It was given out that he got this by sudden plunge in cotton futures. The

officer was conversant with the plans of the flight, and he says to-night that he had an offer of a large sum to give away the information, but declined. He then received a forged telegram saying that Dodge Detective Sergeant Herlihy of New York has appeared suddenly in a very bad way which lends additional mystery to the case

He was supposed to be on Dodge's trail and it was rumored at one time that he had been murdered. He is now at the infirmary in a serious condition and unable to give an account of himself. Physicians refuse to give out the nature of his ailment, other than to say his mind is affected and that it will be some

time before he can get out. It is asserted by the attorneys for the New York Commonwealth that Dodge is only passively interested in all of the proceedings, and that he has little personal objection to returning to New York. He has said that he had no fear of facing the One of the men who guarded him, and

One of the men who guarded him, and who was made something of a confidant, has repeatedly said that others were interested instead of Dodge in his getting out of the country. There seems to be an unlimited source of money to fight Dodge's battle. The sum of \$10,000 in gold was first deposited as bond, and at least that much more has been spent in the attempt to Federal Judge Burns is to make inquir into the circumstances surrounding the case at the rehearing. All of the leading attorneys of the Houston bar are engaged

on one side or other of the case. "We would like to have Mrs. Dedge come to this office," said District Atterney Jerome yesterday. "If the newspapers would so state she might be so informed. She is not town and I do not know where she is I am sure that she would come here if she knew we wanted her. Nothing in the transactions affecting her, Charles Morse or Charles F. Dodge reflects on n any way. I can't believe that when Mrs. Dodge comes to know that we want to talk with her she will not come at croce

"Do you know whether Mr. Morse is ir I do not, " said Mr. Jerome. "Do you want to see him, too?"
"No," said the District Attorney.
Mrs. Dodge left Lakewood, N. J., a week

Mrs. Dodge left Lakewood, N. J., a week ago Thursday on the last*train for Atlantic City. The Grand Jury here examined no one in connection with the case yesterday. Mr. Jerome was notified that Charles F. Dodge, who is under arrest in Texas, was on his way to Houston, surrounded by United States marshale Texas Rangers, detective sergeants and sleuths from the District Attorney's effice. Mr. Jerome understood that Dodge had withdrawn the application to be released

on habeas corpus proceedings that were made after his second arrest at Laredo. No word of Detective Sergeant John J. Herlihy's condition had been received at Police Headquarters last night. The first

they knew of the matter was when shown a despatch of THE SUN telling of his being in a hospital. Capt. Langan was greatly surprised at the news, and said he had not heard of the detective being mentally unbalanced. He started to find Inspector McClusky, to in-form him of the matter. Herilhy left this city about two weeks ago to bring Dodge back here. He appeared to be in excellent spirits when he left for Texas. Herlihv lives at 152 East Eighty-fourth street. He has been a member of the police force since September, 1887.

DINE THEIR CONGRESSMAN. Douglas Tells His Hosts That He Doesn't

Friends and neighbors, fifty men all told. gave a dinner last night at the Café Martin in honor of Congressman William H. Douglas On the Evenings of Wednesof the Fifteenth district. The feast was arranged by F. F. Waters and T. N. Ripson. Many speakers, among them Prof. John James Stevenson, Charles P. Fagnani and Hector M. Hitchings, the sworn foe of Abe Gruber, paid tribute to the guest of the evening in warm words of praise "We ought to keep Mr. Douglas in Congress as long as he is willing to stay," said Prof. Stevenson, but Mr. Douglas himself didn't, encourage this recommendation

didn't encourage this recommendation

I am deeply moved at the tribute you have paid me to-night. I see before me, not office seekers, but honest friends and not office seekers, but honest friends and neighbors.

If I have the qualities you attribute to me, I shall endeavor to show it in the year that remains of my term of office. But this I must say to you to-night, I have always been a business man and a private citizen rather than a politician.

I have biffsingss interests, as you know—
I have biffsingss interests, as you know—
I have biffsingss interests that sought to be taken large business interests that—ought to be taken care of. I have a family of whom I want to make honest women and upright men. I am content and willing to return to private life again.

I do not propose to accept a renomination

Let

There are other men more capable. Lethem take up my work. But I hope the man you send in my place will be a strong man. Weak men who talk and have not the courage to act are useless. The hosts gave three cheers and a tiger for their guest. Among those present were Assistant United States District Attorney Henry A. Wise, David Warren Cromwell, William S. Bennett and W. C. Crane.

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BOSTON NEW YORK

COLLEGE PRESIDENTS MEET. annual Session of the American University

CHICAGO

Association Begins. NEW HAVEN Feb. 18 -The annual conrention of the Association of American Universities began here to-day with about thirty delegates in attendance. Thirteen universities were represented. Among the presidents present were Eliot of Harvard, Jordan of Stanford, Wheeler of California, Harper of Chicago, Remsen of Johns Hop-kins and Hadley of Yale.

The only paper for discussion was "Uniformity of University Statistics." This paper was presented last year and the discussion went over until this meeting. The delegates were entertained at a reception this evening. The meeting will Convicted Murderer Confesses to Arson

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., Feb. 18 .- George H.

Jaggers, who was convicted on Tuesday

at Newton, N. J., of the murder of Mrs. Victor L. Bevans at her home in Sandyston on Oct. 23, last night confessed to Gen. George D. Van Auken, who visited him in his cell, that over a year ago he robbed and then burned the store of Gen. Van Auken at Dingmans, Pike county. Pa. He denied having shot Mrs. Bevans.

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